



National Park Service
Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
JANUARY 2018 WINTER USE MEETING**

MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

January 24, 2018

University College East Millinocket, 1 Dirigo Drive, East Millinocket, ME 04430

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INTRODUCTION

On January 24, 2018 the National Park Service (NPS) hosted a public meeting in East Millinocket to discuss winter use within Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM). The meeting was designed to a), help the planning team to better understand the diversity of ideas and concerns related to winter activities, b) help NPS in understanding how best to balance the relationship between desired activities and important resources within the monument, and c) give attendees an opportunity to participate in the development of the management plan for the newly created monument.

The meeting, which was attended by over 60 people from around the region, was organized in three parts. The first part was a short presentation by Noel Musson, the lead planner for the team hired to assist in developing the Management Plan and Tim Hudson, the KWW Superintendent. For the second part, attendees divided into small groups where they participated in facilitated discussions in response to a series of questions developed by the consulting team. In the last part, the participants reconvened to report back to the larger audience what each group discussed.

This report includes an overview of the meeting and information from the flip charts used during breakout sessions. The Appendix includes the agenda for the meeting, the Small Group Questions Handout, and copies of the maps that were marked up by participants during their discussions.

MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting kicked off with a short presentation by Noel Musson, the lead consultant working on the planning process for the management plan. Tim Hudson, KWWNM Superintendent, then made a brief presentation on the monument, anticipated winter activities, and areas and elements to consider in the small group discussions.

After the introductory presentations, the participants were divided into seven groups for breakout discussions. Each group had a set of questions to guide the discussion. Groups were also asked to complete a compatibility matrix for various uses within the Monument. Each table was provided with a set of 24" x 36" maps of the whole monument area, the Interconnected Trail System (ITS) snowmobile trails in the area, and an area map showing the Monument in relation to the surrounding communities and dedicated conservation lands. Each group was assigned a facilitator (NPS employees and the planning team). A member of the group was asked to be a recorder and a presenter. Following the group discussions, each group presented a summary of their findings. The concluding presentations were all captured on video by the planning team.

The small group questions are listed below and can also be found in the Appendix.

- **Question 1** - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?
- **Question 2** - What type of infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?
- **Question 3** - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?
- **Question 4** – How compatible/incompatible are different uses with each other? (This question involved filling out a matrix of potential winter activities within the Monument.)

Small Group Discussions

GROUP 1

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Ice fishing – not many places/ponds too small
- Different types of camping – back country/front country
- Hut camping
- Photography

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

Examples: Well-marked / groomed trails, Signage, Bathrooms, Parking

- Grooming – skijoring; dog sledding, skiing
- Parking in multiple places (including south end) for skiing, snowshoeing
- Huts in south end – like Baxter bunkhouses
- Outhouses
- Areas managed as wilderness
- Once/twice per winter allow snowmobile access to lookout? Special event?
- Some groomed, some ungroomed cross-country ski trails
- Handicap accessibility – particularly trails on east side
- Snowshoeing and day use on the east side
- Kiosk in Medway/info re: safety/working forest

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

Examples: many types of active recreational opportunities, solitude, rolling terrain, woods, etc.

- Have lot of activities
- Some trails multiuse/some trails separate use
- Tie in with Patten Lumberman's Museum
- Make sure people know it is surrounded by working forest which changes over time; info needs to change too.

Question 4 - How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 1 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</p> <p>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</p>												
	Skijoring	XC Skiing	Ice Fishing	Dog Sledding	Fat Tire Biking	Snowmobiling	Nature Observation	Backcountry Camping	Hiking / Snowshoeing			
Skijoring												
XC Skiing	X											
Ice Fishing												
Dog Sledding	O	X										
Fat Tire Biking	--	X		--								
Snowmobiling	X	X/ O		O	X							
Nature Observation	O	O		O	O	--						
Backcountry Camping	O	O		--	O	O ¹	O					
Hiking / Snowshoeing	--	O ²		O	O	O ³	O	O				

X	CONFLICT
—	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

¹ On east side

² On separate sides

³ maybe

GROUP 2

Question1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Snow sledding on the Loop Road, also grooming
 - Great views, good for economy
- Cross country skiing in North
- Snowshoeing
- Hut to Hut activities
 - Snowshoe or ski
 - Permit access to Baxter
 - North to South or South to North
- Winter camping
- Fat Tire biking
- Star gazing/Celestial events/ Northern lights
- Winter Picnics
- Group activities/events
 - Races, group skijoring
- Ice skating on the rivers (Lunksoos Lake)

Things we don't want – going into Baxter, not much ice fishing

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Groomers for sledding, skiing, snowshoeing
- Signage (clear uses)
- Agreements for grooming! On paper
- Warming huts (rest rooms, heat water, running water, microwave)
- Equipment rentals
- Kiosks/lots of signage
- Sign in /sign out
- Parking (use park 'n rides, business will benefit)
- Use what already exists
- Strong website for info
- Make loops vs out and back
- Connections to trails outside/inside the Park (not motorized)
- Visitor Center

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- Solitude – people, noise
- Group activities
- Multi-day and quick trip
- Educational opportunities (signs for Flora/Fauna, Thornby black locus, etc.)
- Guided activities (i.e. friends groups, guides)
- Views – Northern Lookout – need to maintain vegetation
- Night activities/clear views/no light pollution
- Schools/kids get out
- Find cool natural features (big trees)
- Draw people away to monument
- Rare plants/features (summer)
(Photography)

Question 4 – How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 2 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</p> <p>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</p>												
	Skijoring											
	XC Skiing	--										
	Ice Fishing	--	O									
	Dog Sledding	O	--									
	Fat Tire Biking	--	--	O	--							
	Snowmobiling	--	X	O	--	X						
	Nature Observation	--	O	O	--	O	--					
	Backcountry Camping	--	O	O	O	O	--	O				
	Hiking / Snowshoeing	--	O	O	--	--	--	O	O			

X	CONFLICT
—	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

GROUP 3

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Skating
- Ice fishing
- Motorized winter access
 - Loop Road
 - Snow coaches – to help facilitate folks getting in longer distances during winter
 - Parking
 - Huts, etc. on South End to support uses and access
- Drones/photography

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Emergency services infrastructure
- Improved communication (e.g. cell tower)
- Trails well marked
- Need signage in general
- Day shelters/winter bathrooms
- Overnight shelter
- Scenic overlooks – improvements and development
- Interpretative History
- Natural/Tracks
- Visitor Center – maybe one on each on each end
- Continuing to improve maps/registration/trail sign in
- Lumberman's Museum plays a key role, serves today
- Guided Services
 - Business support
 - Enhanced safety/experience
 - Education
- Grooming equipment
- Wilderness vs Infrastructure balance
- Snowmobiles important
- Opportunity to co-mingle hunting and forestry

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- Snowshoe – smaller group, solo
- Snowmobile – marked trails, corridor maintained
- Everything shouldn't happen everywhere – solitude should be available
- Dogs – allowed with leash/under control
- Need to get away – opportunities around Monument
- Four-wheeler on road use, ok on trails, not on Monument
- Forestry for hunting/game, mgmt.?
- Structured group activities
- Races – ski, bike, dog sled, run

- Youth
- Not only shared trails – hearing/smelling sleds
- Scenic areas today segregated by use – need more
- Ski to hut/shelter - need more
- Ice fishing outside Monument
- Multi-use has to happen but not everywhere

Question 4 – How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 3 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</p> <p>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</p>												
	Skijoring											
	XC Skiing	--										
	Ice Fishing	O	O									
	Dog Sledding	O	--	O								
	Fat Tire Biking	--	--	O	--							
	Snowmobiling	X	X	O	X	X						
	Nature Observation	X	O	O	X	--	X					
	Backcountry Camping	--	O	O	--	O	O	O				
	Hiking / Snowshoeing	--	O	O	--	O	X	O	O			
	Solitude	X	O	O	X	--	X	O	O	O		
	Rippin It Up					O	O					

X	CONFLICT
—	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

GROUP 4

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Cross country skiing
- Showshoe
- Warm tent camping
- Hunting (rabbit, cayotes)
- Skijoring
- Night sky activities
- Wildlife watching
- Snowmobile
- Hiking
- Ice fishing
- Fat tire biking
- Dogsledding
- Birding
- Brush outing

Question 2 - What type of infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Parking
- Human waste- privies
- Hut upkeep and increasing number/capacity
- Grooming – cross country skiing, snowmobile trails
- Hut availability
- Lean-to for mobility/older hikers
- Yurt system 6-12 miles apart
- Keep in mind accessibility/mobility issues
- Increase/allow access to Loop Road: snowmobiles, cross country skiing, snowshoeing (shared, but separated by times/dates)

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- Quiet
- Beauty
- Time to slow down and notice
- Wildlife viewing/hearing
- History/Cultural experience - learn see
- Junior Ranger program
- Other programs (e.g. Senior Ranger)
- Interpretive trails
- Maps
- Education programs with schools, place-based curriculum

- East branch/vistas/northwest corner of Maine, KWW is access to “wilderness” wild experience
- Night sky (stars over Katahdin)
- Balance access/service facilities to support winter activities
- Road improvement
- History research (e.g. snowmobile “old tread trail”)
- “Winter Festival”
- Citizen biathlon
- Guided tours/guided snowmobile trips – help with distance to get in

Question 4 – How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 4 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</p> <p>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</p>												
	Skijoring	XC Skiing	Ice Fishing	Dog Sledding	Fat Tire Biking	Snowmobiling	Nature Observation	Backcountry Camping	Hiking / Snowshoeing			
Skijoring												
XC Skiing	O											
Ice Fishing	O	O										
Dog Sledding	--	--	O									
Fat Tire Biking	--	--	O	--								
Snowmobiling	X	--	O	X	--							
Nature Observation	O	O	O	O	O	O						
Backcountry Camping	O	O	O	O	O	O	O					
Hiking / Snowshoeing	O	O	O	O	--	--	O	O				

X	CONFLICT
--	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

GROUP 5

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Same as on list – no additions

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Parking at Bowlin Pond camps, Swift Bk in addition to north end i.e., North, middle, South, and American Thread Road; outhouses at parking and at huts
- Signage Highways (I-95, 11, 159)
 - Trailheads, major trail intersections it's good now
 - Guidance on where different users go (xc ski/showshoe/walk)
- Trails – add loops (include some hills), “stacked loops” – different distances and abilities
- Mix of grooming styles for cross country ski – track set/packed/ungroomed
- More places to camp

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- Distance and difficulty will separate users
- Hut-hut distance – 6-8 miles. Reservations may be necessary
- Life Flight sites, marked
- GPS coordinates on huts for safety
- Life Flight sites, SPOT transponders
- Views important
- Variety – existing trail flat

Question 4 - How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 5 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</p> <p>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</p>												
	Skijoring											
	XC Skiing	-/O										
	Ice Fishing	n.a.	n.a.									
	Dog Sledding	?/O	--	n.a.								
	Fat Tire Biking	X/-	-/X	n.a.	X/-							
	Snowmobiling	X	X	O	X	X/-						
	Nature Observation	O	O	O	O	O						
	Backcountry Camping	O	O	O	--	O	O	O				
	Hiking / Snowshoeing	--	--	O	O	--	--	O	O			

X	CONFLICT
—	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

GROUP 6

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- "People want to recreate, not to struggle"
- Parking- Transportation or shuttles, a way to park in winter and comply with logging uses. Shuttles? Snowcats? Sherpa-experience? Desire for ample parking in safe place as opposed to on the road.
- Guides or assistance or concessions to make feasible for "not just experts". Ideas include: Shuttles? Snowcats? People should be able to hire a sherpa-experience so skiers or snowshoers can have assistance, perhaps by a licensed controlled quiet-engine concession to assist with going hut-to-hut. Limited snowmobile access hut to hut.
- Groomed Trails, Huts and Warming Huts - Not just overnight huts but warming huts along the way where you can get out of the weather. Make provisions for skate skiers too. Separate lanes for skiers and snowshoers.
- Improved signage and maps - Not all signage needs to be same sized; speed-appropriate way-finding including multiple day use and day-use, too. People want to know where there going and what grooming to expect. People getting lost is a big problem; need way-finding assists. The PDF app was mentioned
- Design Trails for specific uses with varying degrees of difficulty
 - Separate the snowmobiles and skiers/snowshoers with a noise buffer
 - Groom for both ski and snowshoeing
 - Snowshoes pack a "lane" to one side

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Experiential: destinations with a payoff:
- Transportation to Park in winter: shuttle? Snowcat?
- Groomed trails
- Warming huts vs overnight huts
- Wide ski trails for skate skiers
- Huts for added capacity, hut to hut with concession – with snowmobile assisted Sherpa
- Separate uses of snowmobile and cross country ski
- Improved signage and maps
- Design trails for specific uses with varying difficulty, including multi day use and day use/separated with a noise buffer
- Parking – ample as opposed to parking on road
- Groom for both ski and snowshoe
- Winter Moose sanctuary
- Deer Wintering Habitat: they are most vulnerable in heavy snow years
- Be able to snowmobile to scenic overlooks.
- 2 miles as "Perfect Peace and Quiet" Buffer
- Loop Road Access: is there a way to capitalize on Loop Road?.
- Access to Lower Shin Pond parcel from 159
- Interconnection to Baxter State Park (Southern portion of Roaring Brook)
- Access from Millinocket

- Pie in the sky: wish for access road near 159 Shin Pond
- Huts, lean-tos, yurt, lodge? Timberline Lodge
- Hotel or Lodge nearby or inside? Jordan Pond House, AMC huts, and Maine Huts & Trails
- Interpretive Forestry, model forestry to understand best practices, forest management, interaction with hunting, bird hunting
- Tipping? (cutting of reeds, bows)
- Tour permits (Lamarre Valley Snow __)
- Fiddle-heading
- Hunting: manage for habitat, upland bird species?
- Safety/Logging signs to warn drivers EXAMPLE: Katahdin Forest Management's Rules of the Road
- Need a "Winter is logging season" sign
- Wish for a "You're crossing logging roads" or "You're in logging country" — with a big old logging truck pictured

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- Experiential – destination with payoff: quiet, view or something
- Snowmobile to scenic overlook
- Interconnection to Baxter
- Loop Road access (capitalize on Loop Road?) in winter
- Moose Sanctuary
- Access to Lower Shin Pond from 159
- Access to Millinocket
- trail ratings on cross country ski routes
- Interpretive information for winter - more about nature, develop skills and stewardship
 - Tracking and animal signs
 - Birding
 - Tree identification
 - Where do the animals go in winter and what do they eat?
 - Interpretive Forestry: managing forest lands for wildlife
 - Early successional forest, rabbits, and thus lynx
 - Novice skiers could access tracking, add to their experience

Question 4 – How compatible are different uses with each other?

Group 6 had the following notes for question 4 rather than the matrix.

Snowmobiling Cross-country inherent conflicts:

- Safety a concern
- Suggested a lower speed limit for snowmobiles inside the Monument
- Dog sleds: snowmobiles should stop and let pass
- Idea of different times or days of the week for snow sleds, skiing other days

Dog sledding:

- Suggested looking up Kevin Slater's Trail Etiquette rules, guidelines, and physical requirements for good dog sledding. It's quite specific

Fat Tire Biking

- Don't let them use tracks, ruins them
- Compatible with snowshoeing and hiking
- Firm surface needed for fat tire bikes

Snowshoeing/Xcountry

- Many people don't want to break trail.
- Combine "off to one side" with x-country
- Wider ski trails for skate skier (5% perhaps)...could they use snowmobile trails Mon-Fri?
- People getting lost in logging areas is a problem

Additional activities not on matrix:

- Horseback riding
- Birding
- Animal Tracking (lots of Lynx and Bobcats if there are rabbits and hares in logged areas)

GROUP 7

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

- Skijoring with horses also: Tracking, ice skating, dog sledding with outfitters
- Running
- Winter Orienteering/tracking
- Geocaching
- What about grooming Loop Road for winter use?
- Ski access on Loop Road
- Parking area for ski/snowmobiling use
- Public deeded access on Roberts Road

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

- Parking Area – Lower Shin Pond
- Bathrooms – Facilities
- Signage
- Increase winter camping sites
- More trails created
- Road from North – South
- Visitor Center
- Lodge (study of number of Rooms/Capacity)
- Wilderness Area
- Protect the Wass Watershed
- Snowmobile Club trails – could be used for multiuse
- How you can reach two different experiences on trails – snowmobile vs xc ski
- Multi-use trail signage
- Snowmobile depends on the amount of use – club trails=less use
- 2 kinds of snowmobiles – fast/direct/ITS and scenic/slow/family

Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

- See bullets above
- Non-motorized (bike, ski, snowshoe)
- Motorized (snowmobile)
- Good for skiers to have some groomed and some not groomed

Question 4 – How compatible are different uses with each other?

See Matrix on next page

GROUP 7 - WINTER USES COMPATIBILITY MATRIX

<p><i>Match the uses that could share the same trails or areas in the National Monument by checking the boxes that align compatible uses.</i></p> <p><i>In the blank rows, add additional uses that should be included and note their compatibility.</i></p>												
	(Off ITS) Skijoring											
	XC Skiing											
	Ice Fishing											
	Dog Sledding											
	Fat Tire Biking											
	Snowmobiling											
	Nature Observation											
	Backcountry Camping											
	Hiking / Snowshoeing											

X	CONFLICT
—	PROCEED WITH CAUTION
O	COMPATIBLE

x/- education, speed limits, different times/days

Appendix

**Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument
WINTER USE MEETING
January 24, 2017 • East Millinocket, ME
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

AGENDA

Welcoming Remarks	6:00 PM
Winter Use Overview	6:10 PM
Goals for this meeting	6:30 PM
Short break	6:35 PM
Small Group Discussion	6:40 PM
Groups report out	7:40 PM
Wrap up	8:00 PM

Appendix B – Small Group Questions

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument
Winter Use Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND USE MATRIX

Question 1 - What range of activities should be made available in the winter?

Question 2 - What type of Infrastructure is needed to support the anticipated uses and activities?

Examples: Well-marked / groomed trails, Signage, Bathrooms, Parking

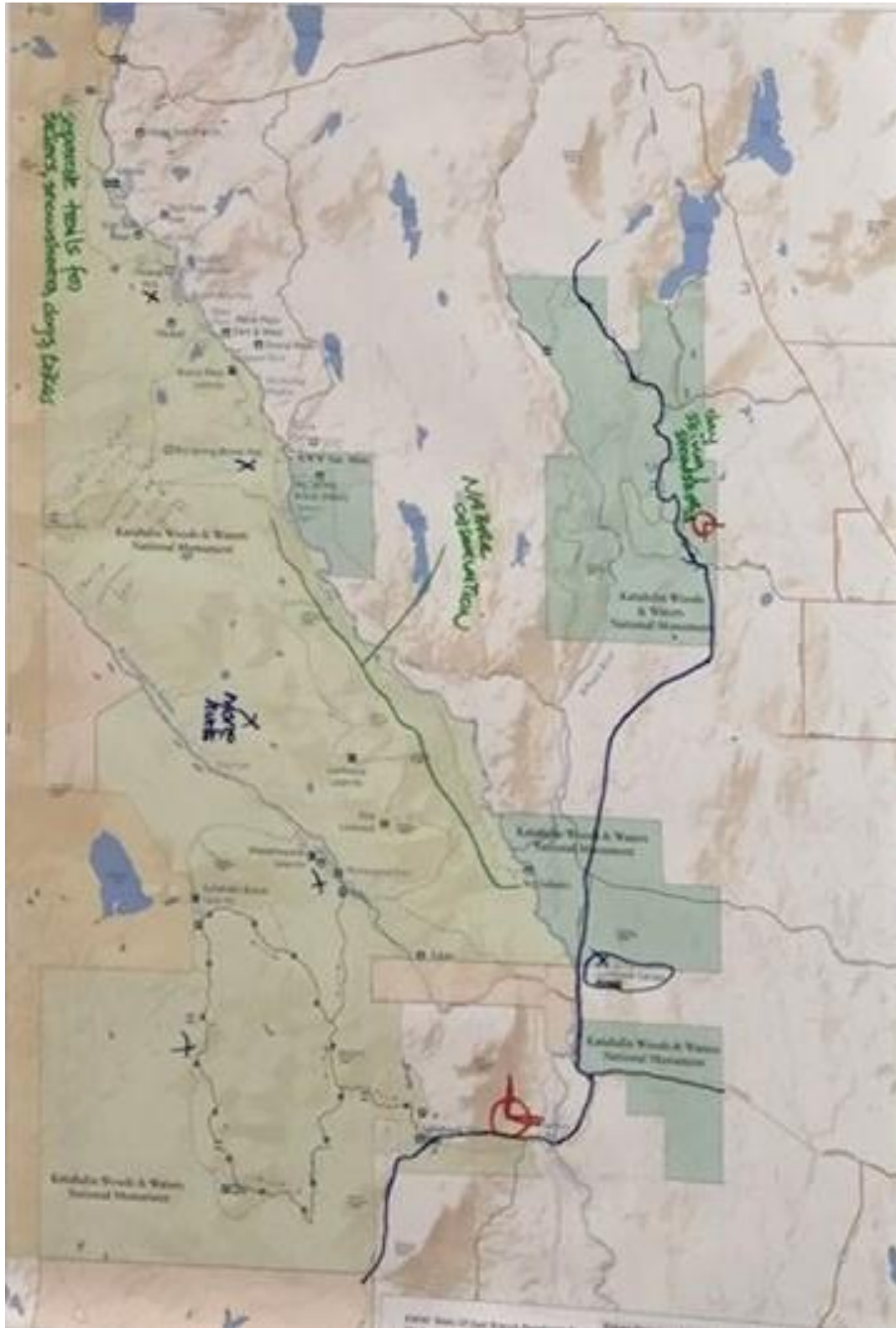
Question 3 - Describe the range of experiences that should be possible within the Monument as a whole?

Examples: many types of active recreational opportunities, solitude, rolling terrain, woods, etc.

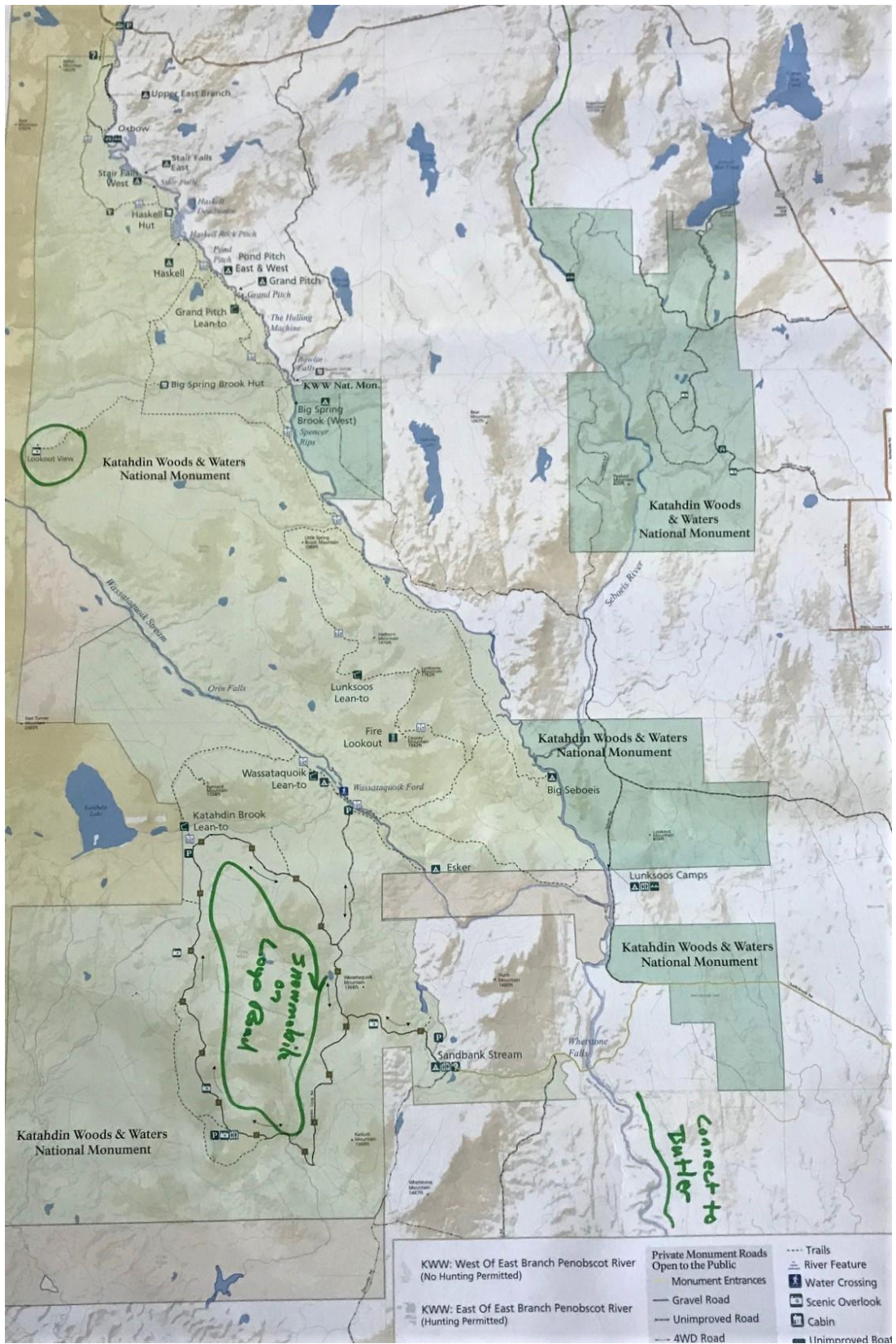
Question 4 – How are compatible are different uses with each other?

See Compatibility Matrix on next page

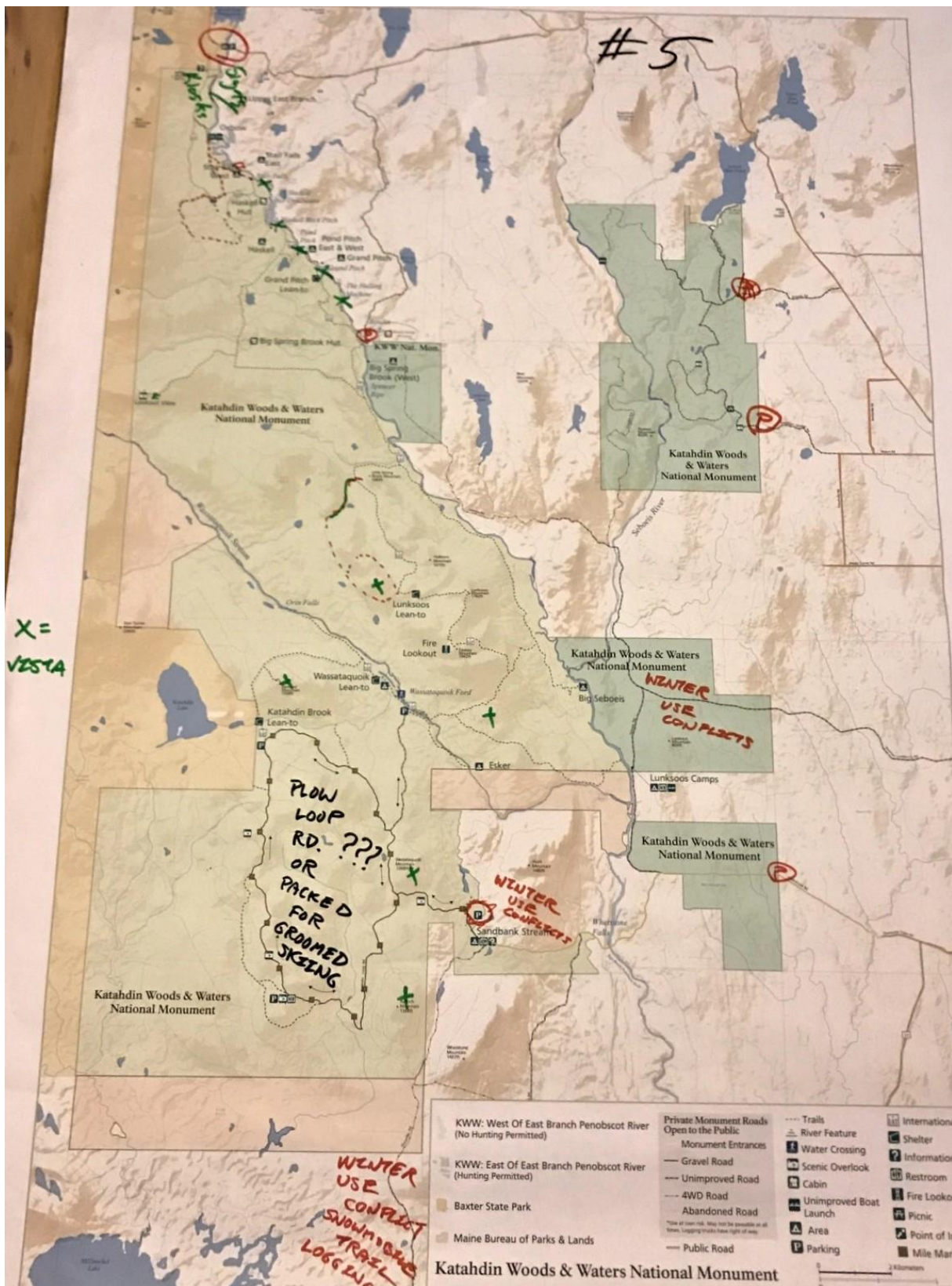
Appendix C – Maps



GROUP 1 MAP



GROUP 2 MAP



GROUP 5 MAP

